

# County of Santa Rosa

## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Retinoblastoma is a cancer which causes the growth of malignant tumors in the retinal cell layer of the eye in newborns and young children; and

**WHEREAS**, Retinoblastoma has increased over the past 60 years and now occurs in one out of every 12,000 children born in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, if left untreated, Retinoblastoma is almost always fatal; and

**WHEREAS**, early diagnosis and treatment is crucial for saving lives and preserving visual function; and

**WHEREAS**, eye dilation examinations performed on infants at birth, during the six to eight week well-baby exam and during the six to nine month well-baby exam are vital to saving the vision and lives of our children; and as infant eye dilation examinations are inexpensive,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Santa Rosa County Board of County Commissioners support eye pathology screening at birth and each well-baby exam thereafter to assist in the early detection of all ocular diseases in newborns, infants and toddlers and that the month of September be declared as Joey Bergsma Retinoblastoma Awareness Month in Santa Rosa County. The Board further encourages all its citizens to help raise awareness of this cancer by recommending that parents request a pathology screening at each exam.



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,  
SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman**